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*Godavari and Kistna districts till the Land Revenue law is codified by means of a proper enactment vesting the power of settling the rates and fixing the land revenue in the Legislative Council.*"

The following resolution which stood in the name of K. Abdul Hye Sahib Bahadur was deemed to have been withdrawn as the hon. Member was not in his place :—

'*This Council recommends to the Government that the principle of separate communal representations be extended on the analogy of the legislatures to all statutory bodies, such as the local boards, municipalities and the senates and due regard should be paid to this question at the time of amending the Local Boards Act.*'

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE ECONOMIC CONDITION IN BELLARY DISTRICT

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I wish to move the resolution that stands in my name, viz.,

'*This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee be formed to enquire into the economic condition of agriculturists in Bellary district.*'

" In so doing, I am particularly anxious that the condition of the agriculturists only at present be taken up for investigation in the district of Bellary. The House is aware that an enquiry into the condition of the cottage industries in the Bellary district and other districts in the Ceded districts has been ordered and that the enquiry is going on at present. . . ."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" On a point of order, Sir. I do not see the hon. Minister for Agriculture here."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think the hon. Member is aware that this subject is one of the hon. the Revenue Member's."

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" It is probably—I might say certainly—well known to the Members of this House that the condition of the agriculturists as a whole in the Presidency is not very good, especially their economic condition. It is a fact that the agriculturists are the one class of people who have to fight against more odds than any other section of people. This is true even in other parts of the world where conditions are much more favourable to them than they are in India. It is then no wonder that the agriculturists in the district of Bellary along with their fellow-workers in the Ceded districts are not solvent. It is a sad fact that the agriculturists do not make both ends meet.

" There are three groups of people who are involved in this occupation, firstly, landlords, secondly the owner-cultivators and thirdly tenant-cultivators. I may add also a fourth group of people, viz., the agricultural workers. I would not be saying anything surprising to this House when I state that three out of these four groups of people are most of the time insolvent. The cultivators whether they be owner-cultivators or tenant-cultivators are to a great extent indebted to sowcars. The labourers if they are not indebted much—to my knowledge they are—are almost economic slaves in one sense or other. This condition is the most regrettable when we consider

the fact that the producers of wealth in this country are mostly agriculturists. That being so, these people who are in the chronic condition of having to pay large rates of interest to people who are not directly interested in agriculture is a sad state of affairs and is one which is not conducive to the healthy growth of village or even town life. On account of this insolvent condition the agriculturists whether they be owner-cultivators or tenant-cultivators or agricultural labourers have to go with less food; they have to go with less clothing than is needed for decency. As a consequence of this, Sir, the agriculturists show less efficiency and undergo considerable suffering. It is on account of these existing conditions that I ask for a committee to investigate and find out exactly the condition of these people that are engaged in agricultural occupation. In this investigation I want to include first the question of the economic income of the agriculturists. Sir, it has been taken for granted that these people must be getting enough. Otherwise they ask 'Would they be interested in agricultural occupation'? It is thought that if these people are not getting enough they would get out of it. As a matter of fact it is not the case. I know personally a great many people in many villages I am acquainted with in Bellary district are in agricultural occupation simply because they have got nothing else to turn to. They are there because they are forced to. That is the only means by which they hope to get a living. I want that the income of these agriculturists should be determined by this investigation. I also want this investigating committee to find out the proportion of their income to the investment of capital and labour in their occupation. I would like that this committee should find out the expenses which the agriculturists have to incur first for their maintenance and then for other things like the interest they have to pay on the monies they have borrowed and invested in the profession. I want also that the committee should find out the rates at which money is borrowed for agricultural occupation. Sir, it would not be surprising to the House if I said that the rate at which money is obtained for agricultural occupation is very high. It would be a revelation to the House if it knows the ratio of interest the agriculturists pay to the income they get from their occupation. . . ."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" On a point of order, Sir, there is no quorum. The hon Member is addressing empty benches."

(The bell was rung and after some time there was quorum.)

* Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" The next thing that I would like this committee to investigate is the amount of debt the agriculturists have incurred for their occupation. It is usually said by some people that the large debts that are incurred by the agriculturists are due to the high expenditure they incur on occasions of marriages and ceremonies. There is some basis for this statement. But I think that the extent to which debts are incurred for these purposes is not as great as it is usually supposed to be. I want also that this committee should find out why the debts are incurred, whether it is because the return from the land is so small that they have to borrow money to make both ends meet or whether it is because their labour is becoming very inefficient that they cannot make a living. I should also like this committee to enquire into the question of the efforts the agriculturists are making to pay back the money borrowed.

2-45 p.m. " Now, Sir, it is supposed in some quarters and among certain sections of people that the agriculturists never make an effort to pay their dues

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back. As a matter of fact this is very far from the truth. Mr. President, Sir, as I was saying the condition of the agricultural people is not good. I want a committee to inquire into the causes for this bad economic condition of the agriculturists. The causes probably lie among these three things, viz., increase in population, increase in the number of people that are engaged in the agricultural occupation and the undue fragmentation of land. This last, Sir, is an evil that has gone too far off in some parts of the Presidency. Land has been divided to such small parts that it cannot any more support the agriculturists who are employed on it. Sir, it has been difficult, so far as I know, for the ryots to obtain enough land in one place to cultivate and get enough livelihood. Also, Sir, the bad economic condition might depend on the lack of organization among the people to pull their resources together and get as much as possible from the land and from the produce. Also, Sir, the economic conditions of the villages and the agriculturists might depend upon the climatic conditions. Whenever there has been a bad season and whenever the yield of crop is small it is claimed that there has not been enough rainfall. Climatic conditions are liable to slight changes but I do not believe that the conditions can change much in a short period. Also, Sir, the economic conditions of the villagers and the agriculturists depend a great deal on the facilities the agriculturists have to market their goods. Again, Sir, agriculture is one of the most difficult occupations and the progressive steps that have been taken in other parts of the world to improve agriculture have not been followed in this Presidency and it might be one of the reasons why the economic conditions of the ryots have gone down. For thesee investigations I ask that a committee should be appointed.

" Now, Sir, Government has facilities in its hands in the department of agriculture and in the department of co-operative societies and also it could take in certain private individuals who are interested in agriculture and who know enough of the economics of agriculture to help them. I am restricting this economic investigation for the present to only one district. I could probably have in other circumstances included other districts ; but, I think, Sir, first to start investigation it might be convenient to limit it to a small area. Bellary being one of the districts which has suffered considerably in the last 8 or 10 years and the condition of the agriculturists there having been very bad I have chosen this district for the investigation. I hope, Sir, that the members of the House will view this matter favourably and support it."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" I rise, Sir, to second this resolution. Bellary is within the famine zone of the Presidency and I think Government is aware that from the economic standpoint the condition of the ryots of Bellary is one which is most unsatisfactory. For years past Government has been intending to construct protective irrigation works in the Ceded districts and so far nothing has materialised. As I said Government does recognize that the condition of the district is something that calls for the application of remedies. But somehow it has been unable to make up its mind as to the exact nature of the remedy to be applied. We have had many investigations connected with the irrigation sources of this district and so far as I said nothing has materialised. Taking Bellary for

instance except in the last two years when some small expenditure on irrigation works has been incurred, not a single irrigation work has been carried out. If you take Anantapur not a single irrigation work has been carried out although every year has been a famine year. Although Government is aware of the unsatisfactory condition of the districts still a regular economic enquiry might be of great use to the Government. I do not propose laying down the lines of enquiry. I suppose these things will be settled later on. An enquiry would reveal the very unsatisfactory condition of the agriculturists, particularly in the Bellary district and the results of such an enquiry might lead Government to accelerate its decisions as it is always intending to carry out large protective irrigation works but somehow it does not seem to have made up its mind. Subject to the fact that the lines of enquiry might be decided later on such an enquiry is none too late and I therefore wish to support this motion very strongly. I hope such an enquiry will be made which might help Government to make up its mind as early as possible if necessary to apply the remedies. Bellary belongs to one of the poorest districts in the Presidency and I think an enquiry like this might be of great help to Government for the construction of irrigation works."

* Mr. C. Gopala Menon :—" Mr. President, Sir, I support this resolution. It asks for the survey of the economic condition of Bellary. Agriculturists form a large portion of the population of this country and about 70 to 75 per cent of the population depend upon that main industry—the national industry of agriculture. About 10 to 12 per cent of the population depends upon the fortunes and the chances and the fluctuations of that industry such as the cobblers, the weavers, the carpenters and the blacksmiths. Therefore a survey of the economic condition of a large portion of the people of this country is a necessary thing for the Government to undertake. The mover of the resolution has stated that the object of this survey is to find out the income per head of the agricultural population, their expenses and their indebtedness. Similar surveys have been carried out on a smaller scale in the past and if I remember right and if some of the members bear testimony to my recollection I refer to the fact that the hon. Sir A. P. Patro who carried out an economic survey under the auspices of the Madras Economic Association some years ago when Sir Harold Stuart was the President of that institution. Later on Dr. Slater, when he was the University Professor, carried out different surveys of this nature and I believe some of the research students of the Madras University are doing work in their own sphere in finding out the economic condition of certain villages here and there. You have got these non-official agencies, I mean such students to carry on this research work if the Government will take up the initiative. It may be difficult to carry out this survey in the Presidency as a whole and therefore I would suggest that the Presidency be divided into units a number of villages or a firka in order that we might have a correct view of the condition of the population of that particular area. Now, the hon. Mover also referred that he would like to go into the question of fragmentation of lands which is rapidly taking place in this Presidency. I think that by legislation this fragmentation of land has been put a stop to in the Punjab and Bombay is taking steps to prevent fragmentation of land. This fragmentation of land is doing immense injury to the ryot in this Presidency and the subject

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was very thoroughly scrutinized when the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee took evidence all over the country and it will be helpful if the Government intend to carry out survey work into the question also and see how far fragmentation of land could be prevented. With these remarks I wish to support this resolution."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" In supporting this motion I would draw the attention of the apathy of this House in a matter of such importance. I think this is a subject which requires very careful consideration on the part of all sections of the House. I am surprised to find also that the hon. Minister for Development . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will be quite in order if he were to explain why while still being a member of his party he is taking part this evening. He cannot accuse others for non-attendance. That would not be pertinent to the debate."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I am sorry they are absenting themselves on occasions like this for reasons well known. I am here because I ought to be here. I wonder why the tactics of my party are followed by other sections of the House. I would invite attention to the want of a quorum which I had to point out when there was hardly fifteen members present. It is not at all to the credit of the House that it should be so. There is some reason at least for my party people to be absent but there is no reason whatever for the other hon. Members. I am not going into the merits of the reason in which I do not agree myself. (Laughter.)

" Therefore, coming to the subject, it is very strange that the Minister for 3 p.m.
Agriculture and Development is also absent. He has practically abdicated his position, in connexion with this subject. This subject of economic condition of the people of the Bellary and other districts and the development of cottage industries was brought forward in this House by the late Development Minister, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. I do not know why his successor should abdicate his interest in this subject. It may be considered that economic enquiry is a reserved subject I think it is a transferred subject as this is a subject which deals with the development of agricultural industry. Since agriculture is a transferred subject, any enquiry into the condition of the agricultural population should be also a transferred subject. I know that the present Ministry is abdicating its functions in connexion with excise and some other subjects, and I shall not be surprised if the Minister for Development is going to abdicate his connexion with this subject on some excuse or another."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Let the hon. Member come to the subject." (Laughter.)

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Bellary is a district which is subject to all sorts of evils. It is within the famine zone, and the difficulty of getting water is very great, and the life of the agriculturist there is very miserable. The mover of the motion has vividly described the condition of the agricultural population. But I would point out some remedies or rather causes for this wretched state of things and suggest some remedies I have found in Kanara the same state of things as exist in the Bellary district. When agricultural officers go to a village to introduce some improvements in agriculture, the difficulty is the tenants are not interested in the improvement."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member is going far away from the subject."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"One cause is the uncertainty of tenure. This is a very important point. The deplorable condition of the agricultural population is due to this. I am entitled to find out I am sure that they cannot succeed in introducing improvements, for this reason. The tenant thinks that if he makes any improvement he will be mulcted of the additional income that he may get by such improvements. The landlord on the other hand, if he is approached says 'What do I care, I get my rent and I don't care whether the tenant introduces improvements or not. This conflict of interest between the landlord and tenant on the mulganni tenure. . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am afraid there is no mulganni tenure here."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Between the landlord and the permanent tenant and the tenant at will. This conflict of interests is one of the causes of the poor condition of the agriculturists in this Presidency. I am treading on a somewhat dangerous ground. (Laughter.) If I am to suggest a remedy which I once . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"We are not now enquiring as to the remedies. We are only on the necessity for appointing a committee.".

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"The point for consideration is whether one of the points for enquiry should not be to establish a fixity of tenure among cultivators in this Presidency. Of course, the representatives of the janmi classes will jump with joy at this proposal."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am sorry the hon. Member is going far away from the motion before the House. I request the hon. Member to confine his remarks to the necessity for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the economic conditions in the Bellary district."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I support the appointment of the committee. One of the points for consideration might be whether introducing fixity of tenure among tenant classes would not be conducive to the welfare of the agriculturist in Bellary as well as in other districts."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, Bellary has of late been figuring prominently in this House—Bellary for the purpose of cottage industries, Bellary for the purpose of water-supply, and now Bellary for the purpose of enquiring into its economic conditions. Bellary need not be the only one marked for it and there are other districts in the Presidency whose economic conditions are equally bad. The reasons given for the selection of Bellary are first the economic distress prevailing amongst ryots, agricultural indebtedness, and the second reason given by the seconder is that the protective works are a crying necessity. For Ganjam, I have got the same complaint to make. Agricultural distress is very great there and Ganjam is noted as one of the very backward districts. In 1918 Government spent about 32 lakhs of rupees for famine works which were confined to one of the divisions of the district. We have been asking for more protective works for the last 30 years."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I will request the hon. Member to take another opportunity to describe the woes of Ganjam. Let us confine ourselves to Bellary now."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" So, Bellary is not unique in this respect. The reasons for the necessity of the appointment of a committee are applicable throughout the Presidency. It was therefore I said that with reference to Ganjam protective works are very much more needed than in Bellary. The grievance of the ryots, their indebtedness, dearness of provisions, all these are common features of the whole Presidency.

" In regard to the appointment of a committee to inquire into agricultural conditions of the ryots, it is all good in theory. The difficulties of the committee are very many when they actually begin the investigation. The witnesses appearing before the committee cannot say what their income is from all sources nor their expenditure under different heads. It is very difficult to get accurate information from the ryots. Similarly it would be very difficult to select typical villages or divisions. Mr. Gopala Menon referred to the investigation started by me in Ganjam. We did carry on investigation, it was an uphill work and it took three years to carry on the investigation in two districts. It was not an easy matter as the ryots could not furnish the necessary data and information. Some time ago resolutions were moved in the old Council to the appointment of a committee to inquire into the economic condition. Since then there have been many non-official agencies that have been carrying on very effective investigations. We are grateful to Lord Pentland for encouraging this study and this investigation, and it is due also to Sir Harold Stuart who stimulated such enquiry in this province. These two persons will remain in the history of agricultural economics as persons who have done effective service. Through such encouragement, the University has also started an economic chair and rural economics is one of the subjects prescribed by the University. It is proper that such an enquiry or investigation should be carried only by hands of disinterested workers who will spend their time and labour amongst the people, mix with the people and understand their conditions. An official committee going throughout the Presidency will not be able to effect anything at all. Therefore, while I quite sympathise with the object of the mover of this resolution, I do not see how it can be carried out by an official committee. The Government should subsidise non-official bodies or economic associations that are now practically in various parts of the country and encourage them to carry on this work. There are books named 'The study of South Indian villages' published by Dr. Slater and I have also written a book called 'Rural economics' where all these problems are dealt with. Much valuable information is available in these books.

" There are now re-construction leagues in the air. These leagues ought really to be interested in studying the condition of the people They could spend the necessary time and money and go to the villages and study the condition of the ryots at close quarters. The Indian ryot is very conservative. If you go and enquire into his condition he will think that you ask the information in order to increase the taxes and he will not give any information. There are difficulties in the way of the official committee, and it will not be able to do useful work. What I would suggest is that Government should subsidise private bodies and public institutions which are

really interested in the work to carry on economic surveys of the districts in the province. It is very necessary that Government should encourage such work in all districts by competent and organized public associations."

3-15 p.m. * The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Sir, I was in some doubt as to the scope of the resolution when I read it on the paper. As regards economic condition generally, there is in several books and papers of reference a considerable amount of information not only concerning the Bellary district, but other districts as well, such as in the Statistical Atlas of the Presidency, the Census Reports and the Season and Crop Reports. I gather, however, from the hon. Mover that what he has in mind is the collection of detailed information concerning the economic circumstances of the individual agriculturists. Well, enquiries with the object of eliciting reliable information on such details are notoriously a very difficult matter. The hon. Member from Ganjam has to a great extent explained the difficulties that stand in the way of such enquiries and I do not see how any committee that we might appoint would gather together, in any reasonable time, any accurate information on matters of such detail. I feel quite sure that poor as the people in Bellary are, they will probably greatly resent, and view with suspicion, any enquiry into their individual circumstances; nor do I see what advantage it would be to have the information even if we get it. Nobody for a moment denies that the economic condition of the Bellary district is very low. It is one of the poorest districts of the Presidency, with the possible exception of Anantapur and we know—it cannot be denied—that it is a matter of common knowledge that agricultural conditions are extremely precarious in that district. Scarcity and famine visit it at frequent intervals and it seems to me that our endeavour should be to take measures which would in some way alleviate these conditions which we all know, rather than to devote further energies to make enquiries to find out exactly how bad those conditions are. I do not think the appointment of this committee would in any way hasten the taking of such measures. My experience has been, and my fear in this case would be, that if we appoint this committee nothing would be done at all until its report, which would probably not be for several years. I am very loath that any such result would come about; and would much rather desire that we should devote the money and the energy, that would be spent on this committee, into pressing forward with some irrigation scheme such as has already been started, than in making enquiries to find out how poor the people are. We know their condition is quite unfavourable enough to justify the investigation of projects and schemes for ameliorating their condition without any further detailed enquiry. The hon. Mr. Arogyaswami has commented on the fact that nothing had been done for so many years. For many years, Sir, the financial circumstances of this Government were very restricted and not unnaturally when they thought they had a choice between a project that would be remunerative and a project that would be merely productive, they preferred the remunerative project in the hope that their financial circumstances would thereby be improved and enable them to spend more money on the poorer parts of the country. Now that the financial conditions are not as bad as they were, say ten years or so back, or even five years back, we are pushing forward with the investigation of irrigation projects for the benefit of the Ceded districts and particularly the Bellary district. I venture to think that the

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activity in that direction would be much more fruitful and helpful than enquiries by necessarily untrained observers into the private circumstances of the people."

* Mr. R. Nagan Gowda :—" Mr. President, Sir, in speaking on this resolution, the hon. Member from Ganjam laid stress on the fact that along with Bellary other districts of the Presidency also should be included. I certainly would have had no objection to include Ganjam as well as the rest of the Presidency, but for the matter of practical convenience I thought that the inclusion of only one district was necessary for, as I said at the time of moving this resolution, the results that come out of it would be such as to help investigation in Ganjam also. The point has been raised by the same hon. Member that private enquiries can be encouraged. Private enquiries can go to a certain extent but not to any great length. There are obvious difficulties in any such enquiry carried on by private members. He went on to say that a good lot of useful information has been obtained by private enquiries and in the same breath he was saying that it would be very difficult for any committee to find out exactly the economic condition of the ryots. If a private committee can get into the confidence of the ryots and get very valuable information, I should think—giving all credit to Government servants which I know they deserve—that they too will be able to get into the confidence of the ryots and get valuable information. It is the duty of the members of the Departments of Agriculture and Co-operative Societies and also of the Revenue Department to get into the confidence of the ryots and gain useful information. In this country it is true there have been bands of unselfish workers and I think these enquiries by such unselfish workers ought to be supplemented to a great extent—and that such enquiries ought to be taken in hand—by Government itself and that investigation carried on.

" It was said that no good would come out of such enquiries. I really cannot agree with the hon. the Revenue Member in that opinion. I think there are great many things that are connected with the poverty, and the causes that go to make the agriculturists poor, that are unknown to the Government and to the public even. Even the ryots themselves cannot place their fingers and say here is our trouble. Sir, a similar enquiry was conducted by the Department of Agriculture in Bombay and it was a work carried on by the Government officials and they have issued valuable reports on these enquiries. They have also in conclusion stated that the enquiries that they have been able to cary on so far has been useful, but that they would like to have it continued further to understand the real difficulties of the ryots. Sir, there are difficulties with the ryots for marketing their produce. We don't know in details the nature of the difficulties that an agriculturist has to face in his profession. Sir, we would be in a difficulty to find out exactly the reasons unless we go into the matter deeply and find out for what purposes the agriculturist borrows money—it might be social or it might be due to other reasons—and it is only by means of an enquiry that this can be found I am glad the hon. Member has said that remedies could be applied, but I think for the remedy to be applied we should first discover the reasons I know that such remedial measures as irrigation schemes would help a great deal, but even in areas where there are irrigation facilities as in the Hospet taluk and in Sirugappa taluk of the Bellary

district, the conditions of the agriculturists is not any too good. The reasons why the conditions are not good is very difficult to say. I have tried to find out some of them and I must say that I have met with difficulties; and the few enquiries which any private body or members can make would not allow of making generalizations. Sir, it might be thought by Government, that it would cost much to carry on an investigation like this. So far as I can see the Government has a number of facilities in their control like the departments of Agriculture and Co-operation which they can use for carrying on this investigation."

3-30 p.m. * Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am sure my hon. Friend, Mr. Nagan Gowda, is very much obliged to the hon. the Revenue Member for the very helpful and kindly speech he has made on this motion. The point, Sir, if I understand aright, is that the poverty of the district is admitted, and if anything is to be done, it should be to remove the causes of the poverty that undoubtedly prevails in the district. But then, even if we know that the country is poor and the people are suffering, it requires some investigation to find out the ways and means by which that poverty can be cured. It was with a view to find out these remedies that this motion has been tabled by my hon. Friend, Mr. Nagan Gowda. No doubt, irrigation schemes would undoubtedly go a long way to remove the present poverty that is afflicting the district. But then it is not a matter unknown to the hon. the Revenue Member that the whole of the district cannot be served by any irrigation schemes he might have in view. There will still be tracts which would not be touched by any of the schemes that can be thought of and their problems would still require consideration at his hands. A survey of the sort that has been tabled would, to some extent, enable the Government to find out what particular remedies, apart from irrigation, would be needed to solve the problems in certain parts of the district. But I do not want that this question should be laboured further, Sir. I am sure now that the House is convinced that the Government are fully alive to the needs of the district and are pledged to take on hand as many schemes of irrigation as possible to alleviate the distress there. I would urge the Government to bear in mind the fact that the whole of the district cannot be served by any irrigation scheme of theirs and that they should lend sympathetic consideration to proposals which may not fall within the four corners of these schemes of the Government. For example, there are tracts which cannot be commanded by any irrigation scheme, but which can be benefited if Government would permit irrigation free of charge for certain areas by means of a pump or plant. The other day, when I was in Bombay, I found the Government had given such a concession to the people . . ."

* The hon. the President :—" I am afraid we are travelling far into other subjects connected with the distress of Bellary instead of confining our remarks to the enquiry into the economic conditions of the agriculturists."

* Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" The economic conditions being granted, I suggest that, instead of appointing a committee, the Government give concessions in the same way as the Bombay Government have done elsewhere, namely, permitting use of water free of charge by means of pumps, I think that would go a great way to relieve the problem that is

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staring us. After this discussion and the sympathetic speech made by the hon. the Revenue Member, I think that my hon. Friend, Mr. Gowda, would be well advised to withdraw the motion."

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Sir, I just wish to say a few words. The view of the Government in regard to this matter is that they will be always prepared to consider and to give effect to any practicable scheme which will work for the amelioration of the conditions of the district. Our contention is however it would be preferable to do that than to take up time in making enquiries to show how poor the people are. As regards the suggestion which the hon. Member has made about giving concessions for pumping installations, the matter has been under the consideration of the Government and we have just been working out a system which may allow such pumps to be put up for use free of charge for water for certain periods, provided that other interests are not injured by it The details are being settled in communication with the local authorities and we may hope to announce the result soon."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I take that the House is ready for a vote on the question. The question is that this Council recommends to the Government that a committee be formed to enquire into the economic condition of agriculturists in Bellary district."

The resolution was put to the House and negatived.

### APPOINTMENT OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the following resolution which stands in my name :—

' *This Council recommends to the Government that independent medical practitioners be appointed to teach physiology and hygiene and to take charge of medical inspection and physical training work in all schools and colleges maintained by Government or local bodies.*'

" Sir, Government have after all recognized the usefulness of medical inspection in schools and colleges and have made it compulsory in all classes above the elementary stage. But medical inspection as it is carried on at present, is, I am afraid, rather superficial and hasty in most cases. A doctor from outside is called and he examines 15 to 20 students in an hour and I do not know from such hasty and superficial examination to what extent he can judge or understand the real physical condition of the students. His advice and directions are not followed by the parents to whom the treatment of the children is left. In these circumstances, it is a waste to spend money on medical inspection. It will not bring a sufficient return. If, on the other hand, a medical man is employed on the staff of the school or college, medical inspection can be made really thorough and effective. He can keep the boys under observation if necessary. He can repeat his inspection more than once in the year if circumstances require it and he can also give treatment and see that his directions and advice are followed. Further, Sir, the services of such a man could very well be employed for teaching physiology and hygiene. I daresay that physiology and hygiene are very useful subjects and it has been proposed by some people that they ought to